

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /063 W

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P R 291342Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8783

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINT MARR AV SC UK

SUBJ: BRADSHAW ATTACKS DOG ISLAND PROPOSAL

REFS: (A) BTN 0623 (B) BTN 622 (C) LONDON 5842 (D) LONDON 5799

1. ACCORDING TO A REUTER NEWS AGENCY REPORT OF APRIL 25 OUT OF ST. KITTS, PREMIER ROBERT BRADSHAW DESCRIBED THE USG REQUEST TO HMG FOR USE OF DOG ISLAND AS A TARGET TRAINING FACILITY AS "UN-REASONABLE." BRADSHAW SAID IT WAS "UNJUSTIFIABLE FOR THE PEOPLE OF ANOTHER COUNTRY (ST. KITTS) TO ALLOW PART OF THEIR TERRITORY TO BE USED AS A BOMBING AND GUNNERY PRACTICE RANGE WHEN THE FOREIGN COUNTRY (US) HAS VAST TERRITORY OF ITS OWN TO USE FOR THAT PURPOSE." BRADSHAW ADDED THAT "FURTHERMORE, BECAUSE OF THE ANGUILLA SITUATION, THIS IS HARDLY THE TIME - IF AT ALL - FOR A REQUEST OF THIS NATURE TO BE MADE."

2. ACCORDING TO BRADSHAW, THE PLAN TO USE DOG ISLAND AS A BASE FOR TARGET PRACTICE INVOLVED A PROMISE TO SUPPLY BREAKAWAY ANGUILLA WITH ELECTRICITY IN RETURN FOR USE OF DOG ISLAND. STAT-ING THAT HE HAD INVESTIGATED THE MATTER, BRADSHAW SAID "IT IS REALLY A JOKE WHICH THE AMERICANS ARE TRYING, BECAUSE THE ELEC-TRICITY GENERATING SETS WOULD HAVE BEEN MOUNTED ON A SHIP WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN ANCHORED IN ONE OF THE ANGUILLA BAYS AND THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANGUILLIANS WOULD HAVE HAD TO PAY FOR ELECTRICITY." IN THE REUTER

REPORT, BRADSHAW WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT A PRELIMINARY MEETING BETWEEN THE US STATE DEPARTMENT AND HMG OFFICIALS WOULD BE HELD IN LONDON EITHER THIS MONTH OR NEXT MONTH TO DISCUSS THE PLAN.

3. COMMENT: AS THIS EMBASSY PREDICTED IN REF (A), THE DOG ISLAND PROPOSAL HAS DRAGGED USG INTO ST. KITTS-ANGUILLA CONSTITUTIONAL DISPUTE. THERE IS, IN OUR OPINION, NO WAY WE CAN AVOID GETTING FURTHER INVOLVED IN THIS SENSITIVE ISSUE IF WE PERSIST IN THE PROPOSAL. SUCH INVOLVEMENT, AS WE HAVE ALREADY NOTED, IS BOUND TO HARM OUR RELATIONS WITH NOT ONLY ST. KITTS BUT THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN GENERALLY. APPARENTLY, BRADSHAW HAS NOT BEEN BRIEFED BY HMG THAT USG WANTS DOG ISLAND AS A TARGET FACILITY FOR NON-EXPLOSIVE ORDINANCE REQUIRED BY USN, HENCE HIS REFERENCE TO "A BOMBING AND GUNNERY PRACTICE RANGE."

4. ACTION REQUESTED: IF BRADSHAW INTERVIEW, WHICH WAS GIVEN RE PRESS AND MEDIA DISSEMINATION IN BARBADOS, AT LEAST, SHOULD GENERATE MORE UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY IN THE REGION, WE WILL FEEL WE ARE AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE "IF ASKED" PRESS COMMENT ON DOG ISLAND CONTAINED IN REF (D), TO COUNTER THE BRADSHAW STATEMENT. ALSO, WE URGE THAT, WHATEVER ACTION TAKEN PURSUANT TO PROPOSAL, EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO KEEP GOSK INFORMED ON SAME BASIS AS GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY BASES, DOG ISLAND, MILITARY EXERCISES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BRIDGE00688
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750150-0348
From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975045/aaaaaead.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BTN 0623, 75 BTN 622, 75 LONDON 5842, 75 LONDON 5799
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRADSHAW ATTACKS DOG ISLAND PROPOSAL
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MARR, AV, SC, UK, US, (BRADSHAW, ROBERT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006